



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **TULSA COMPANY PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE IRANIAN EXPORT EMBARGO**

TULSA, Okla. — A Tulsa-area company pleaded guilty here today in federal court to illegally providing engineering and procurement services to Iran's National Iranian Gas Company, which violated the U.S. embargo against Iran. Today's plea was announced by U.S. Attorney David E. O'Meilia, Northern District of Oklahoma; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); and U.S. Department of Commerce Office of Export Enforcement.

GasTech Engineering Corp. pleaded guilty today before the Honorable H. Dale Cook, Senior Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma, to conspiracy to violate the Iranian Transactions Regulations that prohibit the exportation of goods and services to Iran. Defendant GasTech Engineering admitted that it conspired with its President Parviz Khosrowyar, and other un-indicted co-conspirators, to provide engineering and procurement services to the Government of Iran's National Iranian Gas Company for the design of the Tabnak Gas Treating Plant in Iran. GasTech President and Chief Executive Officer Khosrowyar remains a fugitive on all counts of the Second Superseding Indictment, including the conspiracy charge and the charge for his failure to appear at trial.

The International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) is the federal statute that implements Presidential embargoes against doing business with Iran, as well as other countries considered to be sponsors of international terrorism. Since the Islamic revolution and overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1979, IEEPA and Presidential embargoes have forbidden United States persons and companies from doing business with Iran and the Government of Iran. Iran is under a comprehensive United States embargo and has been designated by the Secretary of State to be a supporter of international terrorism.

"The Iranian embargo is an important foreign policy tool used to discourage that country from continuing its support of international terrorism," said U.S. Attorney O'Meilia.

“Being able to enforce laws such as the International Emergency Economic Powers Act puts critical teeth in our foreign policy,” said John Chakwin Jr., special agent-in-charge of the Dallas office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). “Our agents work with law enforcement agencies worldwide to investigate and deter the type of export violations GasTech has pleaded guilty to today.” Chakwin heads the ICE Dallas Office of Investigation, which includes north Texas and the State of Oklahoma.

Defendant GasTech Engineering Corp., located in Tulsa, Okla., was incorporated in 1985. GasTech Engineering Corp. was and is engaged in the design and fabrication of oil and gas processing plants and systems. GasTech exports worldwide to numerous destinations including the Middle East, Southeast Asia, North and West Africa, the North Sea and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

As a special condition of probation, GasTech Engineering agreed to a corporate compliance program to be monitored by the Department of Commerce. A further condition mandates that GasTech not violate any of the laws of the United States, including the export laws. GasTech agreed to a forfeiture money judgment representing proceeds traceable to its role in the conspiracy and payment of a regulatory penalty, in addition to any fine imposed by the Court at sentencing.

U.S. Attorney O'Meilia said that, “Federal law enforcement continues to pursue every avenue to see that Co-Defendant Parviz Khosrowyar is apprehended and brought to justice. The source of IEEPA controls is an executive order declaring a national emergency based on an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States.”

The complex investigation that led to the guilty plea by GasTech was a joint effort of federal law enforcement and prosecuting agencies, including: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Commerce Department Office of Export Enforcement, U.S. Department of Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control, and the Counter-Terrorism Section of the U.S. Department of Justice.

U.S. Attorney O'Meilia stated that, “This case is an excellent example of the quality of prosecution that results from numerous agencies working together to enforce embargoes that prohibit U.S. companies and individuals from conducting business with specifically designated terrorist countries. Today's case demonstrates our commitment to enforce the embargo on Iran and other sanctioned countries. U.S. companies that knowingly trade with embargoed countries will face serious consequences.”

In announcing today's guilty plea, U.S. Attorney O'Meilia commended the outstanding efforts of Commerce Special Agent Troy Shaffer and ICE Special Agent Paul Masteller.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine J. Depew is prosecuting this case.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*